Downloaded By: Michael Gentile

Company: VECTOR GROUP LTD
Form Type: 424B3 SEC File #: 333-62156
Description: VECTOR GROUP LTD
SEC File Date: 07/12/01

LIVEDGAR Information Provided By:
GSI ONLINE
A division of Global Securities Information, Inc.

Washington, DC New York, NY Chicago, IL
Los Angeles, CA Miami, FL Dallas, TX

For Additional Information About LIVEDGAR, Call
1-800-669-1154
or Visit Us on the World Wide Web at
http://www.gsionline.com

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/zlgk0001

VECTOR TOBACCO IS SUBJECT TO RISKS INHERENT IN NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Vector plans to make significant investments in Vector Tobacco's development projects in the tobacco industry. Vector Tobacco is in the business of developing new cigarette products designed to both reduce cancer causing agents in cigarettes to below the level that has been shown to produce carcinomas in animal experiments and to be virtually free of nicotine. These initiatives are subject to a high level of risks, uncertainties and contingencies, including the challenges inherent in new product development. Vector Tobacco's new OMNI product is subject to independent laboratory verification of the reduction of PAHs and TSNAs in the product prior to launch. There is a risk that investments in Vector Tobacco will harm Vector's profitability (if any) or liquidity or cash flow.

The substantial risks facing Vector Tobacco include:

RISKS OF MARKET ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW PRODUCTS. Vector Tobacco has conducted limited testing of cigarettes produced from tobacco genetically modified to produce a virtually nicotine-free and TSNA-free cigarette. Virtually nicotine-free and TSNA-free or low PAH cigarettes may not be accepted ultimately by adult smokers. Adult smokers may decide not to purchase cigarettes made with virtually nicotine-free and TSNA-free or low PAH tobaccos due to taste or other preferences, or due to the use of genetically modified tobacco or the virtual absence of nicotine.

COMPETITION FROM OTHER CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS WITH GREATER RESOURCES. The cigarette industry is highly competitive. Vector Tobacco's competitors generally have substantially greater resources than Vector Tobacco has, including financial, marketing and personnel resources. Other major tobacco companies have stated that they are working on reduced risk, "safer" cigarette products and have made publicly available only limited additional information concerning their activities at this time. There is a substantial likelihood that other major tobacco companies will introduce products that are designed to compete directly with Vector Tobacco's virtually nicotine-free and TSNA-free and low PAH product candidates.

POTENTIAL DISPUTES CONCERNING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. Vector Tobacco's ability to commercially exploit its proprietary technology for its virtually nicotine-free and TSNA-free and low PAH products depends in large part on its ability to obtain and defend issued patents, to obtain further patent protection for the technology in the United States and other jurisdictions, and to operate without infringing on the patents and proprietary rights of others both in the United States and abroad. Additionally, it must be able to obtain appropriate licenses to patents or proprietary rights held by third parties if infringement would otherwise occur, both in the United States and in foreign counties.

Intellectual property rights, including Vector Tobacco's patents (owned or licensed), involve complex legal and factual issues. Any conflicts resulting from third party patent applications and granted patents could significantly limit Vector Tobacco's ability to obtain meaningful patent protection or to commercialize its technology. If necessary patents currently exist or are issued to other companies that contain competitive or conflicting claims, Vector Tobacco may be required to obtain licenses to these patents or to develop or obtain alternative technology. Licensing agreements, if required, may be unavailable on acceptable terms or at all. If licenses are not obtained, Vector Tobacco could be delayed in or prevented from pursuing the development or commercialization of its new cigarette products. Any alternative technology, if feasible, could take several years to develop.

Litigation which could result in substantial cost may also be necessary to enforce any patents to which Vector Tobacco has rights, or to determine the scope, validity and unenforceability of other parties' proprietary rights which may affect its rights. Vector Tobacco may also have to participate in interference proceedings declared by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to determine the priority of an invention or opposition proceedings in foreign counties or jurisdictions, which could result in substantial costs. There is a risk that its licensed patents would not be held valid by a court or administrative body or that an alleged infringer would not be found to be infringing. The mere uncertainty resulting from the institution and continuation of any technology-related litigation, interference proceedings or oppositions could have a material and adverse effect on Vector Tobacco's business, operating results and prospects.

PM3001143452

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/zlgk0001

Vector Tobacco may also rely on unpatented trade secrets and know-how to maintain its competitive position, which it seeks to protect, in part, by confidentiality agreements with employees, consultants, suppliers and others. There is a risk that these agreements will be breached or terminated, that Vector Tobacco will not have adequate remedies for any breach, or that its trade secrets will otherwise become known or be independently discovered by competitors.

DEPENDENCE ON KEY SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL. Vector Tobacco's business depends for its continued development and growth on the continued services of key scientific personnel. The loss of Dr. Robert Bereman, Vice President of Chemical Research, or Dr. Mark A. Conkling, Vice President of Genetic Research, could have a serious negative impact upon Vector Tobacco's business, operating results and prospects.

ABILITY TO RAISE CAPITAL AND MANAGE GROWTH OF BUSINESS. If Vector Tobacco succeeds in introducing to market and increasing consumer acceptance for its new cigarette product candidates, Vector Tobacco will be required to obtain significant amounts of additional capital and manage substantial volume from its customers. There is a risk that adequate amounts of additional capital will not be available to Vector Tobacco to fund the growth of its business. To accommodate growth and compete effectively, Vector Tobacco will also be required to attract, integrate, motivate and retain additional highly skilled sales, technical and other employees. Vector Tobacco will face competition for these people. Its ability to manage volume also will depend on its ability to scale up its tobacco processing, production and distribution operations. There is a risk that it will not succeed in scaling its processing, production and distribution operations and that its personnel, systems, procedures and controls will not be adequate to support its future operations.

POTENTIAL DELAYS IN OBTAINING ANY NECESSARY GOVERNMENT APPROVALS. Vector Tobacco's business may become subject to extensive domestic and international government regulation. Various proposals have been made for federal, state and international legislation to regulate cigarette manufacturers. The ultimate outcome of these proposals cannot be predicted. It is possible that laws and regulations may be adopted covering issues like the manufacture, sale, distribution and labeling of tobacco products as well as any health claims associated with new, less hazardous cigarette products and the use of genetically modified tobacco. A system of regulation by agencies like the Food and Drug Administration, the Federal Trade Commission or the United States Department of Agriculture may be established. Any new laws or regulations of this type could significantly delay Vector Tobacco's introduction of its new products to market or may require it to incur significant expense in complying with any new regulation or in obtaining any necessary government approvals.

POTENTIAL DELAYS IN OBTAINING TOBACCO, OTHER RAW MATERIALS AND ANY TECHNOLOGY NEEDED TO PRODUCE NEW PRODUCTS. Vector Tobacco is dependent on third parties to produce tobacco and other raw materials that Vector Tobacco will require to manufacture its new product candidates. In addition, the growing of new tobacco and new seeds is subject to adverse weather conditions. Vector Tobacco may also need to obtain licenses to technology subject to patents or proprietary rights of third parties to produce its products. The failure by such third parties to supply Vector Tobacco with tobacco, other raw materials and technology on commercially reasonable terms, or at all, in the absence of readily available alternative sources, would have a serious negative impact on Vector Tobacco's business, operating results and prospects. There is also a risk that interruptions in the supply of these materials and technology may occur in the future. Any interruption in their supply could have a serious negative impact on Vector Tobacco.

NEW VALLEY IS SUBJECT TO RISKS RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIES IN WHICH IT OPERATES

THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY. As a broker-dealer, Ladenburg is subject to uncertainties endemic to the securities industry. These uncertainties include the volatility of domestic and international financial, bond and stock markets, as demonstrated by recent disruptions in the financial markets, extensive governmental regulation, litigation, intense competition and substantial fluctuations in the volume and price level of securities. Ladenburg also depends on the solvency of various counterparties. As a result, revenues and earnings may vary significantly from quarter to quarter and from year to year. In periods of low volume, profitability is impaired because expenses remain relatively fixed. Ladenburg is much smaller and has much less capital than many competitors in the securities industry. The securities industry has experienced significant consolidation in recent years among industry participants. Many of Ladenburg's competitors are substantially larger than Ladenburg in terms of capital, employees and distribution and marketing resources.

PM3001143453

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/zlgk0001